

# 2009-2010 Fulbright Scholar Program

## Advanced Research and University Lecturing Awards

### in the United States

#### THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

The flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government, widely known as the Fulbright Program, is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries. With this goal as a starting point, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 273,500 participants—chosen for their leadership potential—with the opportunity to observe each other's political, economic and cultural institutions, exchange ideas and embark on joint ventures of importance to the general welfare of the world.

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by former Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. The Fulbright Program is administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State.

Since the establishment of the Program, 45,400 Fulbright Visiting Scholars have conducted research or taught in U.S. universities, and more than 43,600 Fulbright U.S. Scholars have engaged in similar activities abroad. The Fulbright Program awards approximately 800 grants to Visiting Scholars each year. Currently, the Program operates in over 150 countries worldwide.

The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation made by the United States Congress to the Department of State. Participating governments and host institutions in foreign countries and in the United States also contribute financially through cost-sharing and indirect support, such as salary supplements, tuition waivers and university housing.

**The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB)**, composed of 12 educational and public leaders appointed by the President of the United States, formulates policy for the administration of the Program, establishes criteria for the selection of candidates and approves candidates nominated for awards.

**The United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs**, develops policies to assure fulfillment of the purposes of the Program and administers it with the assistance of educational commissions and foundations in 50 countries that have binational agreements with the United States for continuing exchange programs, U.S. Embassies in 90 other countries and a number of cooperating agencies in the United States.

**Binational commissions and foundations** draw up the annual program plan for exchanges, in consultation with participating universities and organizations in the host country. They also screen, interview, and recommend to the FSB qualified candidates for student and faculty grants under their exchange programs. In a country without a commission or foundation, the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy develops the program and supervises it locally.

**The Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES)**, under a cooperative agreement with the Department of State, administers the Fulbright Scholar Program for faculty and professionals. CIES is a division of the Institute of International Education (IIE) and has close working relationships with the major disciplinary bodies in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. During the terms of their grants in the United States, Fulbright lecturers and researchers are assisted by CIES.

---

# The Fulbright Program and General Requirements

## OVERVIEW OF THE FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR PROGRAM

The mission of the Fulbright Scholar Program is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and people of other countries. It aims to provide educational exchange experiences to a maximum number of individuals not previously afforded such an opportunity. The experience should be of intrinsic value to the scholar, the recipient's home institution, its faculty and its students, as well as to the U.S. host institution. Fulbright Scholars serve as cultural ambassadors and should be prepared to speak about their countries, cultures and research to academic and community groups.

The Program has provided thousands of scholars with the opportunity to establish professional contacts in their field and make long-lasting friendships with colleagues in the United States; to develop collaborative research relationships with U.S. scholars; and to enhance their scholarly publications and other contributions with research conducted in the United States. Finally, for many faculty, the Fulbright Program offers an opportunity to pursue scholarly work without interruption. By doing research, guest lecturing, and pursuing other scholarly interests in a completely different environment, scholars return home personally invigorated and professionally stimulated.

## NATURE OF GRANTS

Grant benefits vary according to the provisions of the program in each participating country. All Fulbright grants include limited insurance coverage for accident and sickness. Most awards provide international travel for the grantee to and from the host institution in the United States. About 70 percent of Fulbright grantees also receive maintenance grants provided by the U.S. Department of State or binational Fulbright Commissions. Other scholars receive financial support from host institutions in the United States, private foundations or their home institutions or governments. Some also use personal funds to supplement their grants.

Most grants are awarded for a period of three to 10 months. Grants should not be for periods of less than three months or more than 12 months, including extensions. Particular country or regional programs may have specific guidelines concerning the duration of grants and other special criteria that applicants should consider in their applications.

A grant may be revoked, terminated, or suspended. Grounds for revocation or termination include, but are not limited to: (1) violation of any law of the United States or the home country; (2) any act likely to give offense to the United States; (3) failure to observe satisfactory academic or professional standards; (4) physical or mental incapacitation; (5) engaging in any unauthorized income-producing activity; (6) failure to comply with the grant's terms and conditions; (7) material misrepresentation made by any grantee in the application form or grant document; (8) conduct which may have the effect of bringing the U.S. Department of State or the Fulbright Program into disrepute; and (9) violation of the policies of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB).

A grant may be suspended if (1) the grantee ceases to carry out the project or academic program during the grant period or (2) the grantee leaves the United States for more than two weeks without authorization of the Fulbright Commission or U.S. Embassy and supervising agency.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

You must possess **all** of the following qualifications in order to be eligible unless specific exemptions are stated by the Fulbright Commission or Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy (heretofore called “Fulbright organization”) from which you received this application.

- **Citizenship or permanent resident status qualifying you to hold a valid passport issued in the country in which the application is made.** Persons selected for a Fulbright grant will be required to submit a copy of their passport data page to the Fulbright organization. Persons applying for or holding permanent residence in the United States are not eligible. Persons who are citizens of both a partner country and the United States are also ineligible. Fulbright Scholars enter the United States on an Exchange Visitor (J-1) visa under a U.S. Department of State program and are subject to the two-year home-country residency requirement associated with the J-1 visa. NOTE: Scholars and their dependents who have held J visas and been physically present in the United States for six months or more are not eligible to reenter as J-1 researchers or lecturers for 12 months following their departure from the United States.
- **Doctoral degree or equivalent professional training or experience at the time of application.** For professionals and artists outside academe, recognized professional standing and substantial professional accomplishment is expected.
- **A detailed statement of proposed activity for research or lecturing at a U.S. institution.** The proposed project should contribute to the development of knowledge in your field and must be effectively investigated within a period of three to 12 months in the United States (ask your local Fulbright organization about recommended standard grant lengths).
- **Proficiency in English appropriate to the proposed lecturing or research project to be carried out in the United States.** You may be required to take an English proficiency examination at the U.S. Embassy.
- **Sound physical and mental health.** Those selected for a Fulbright grant are required to submit a Medical History and Examination Report before their grants can be finalized.

In addition you should note the following conditions affecting review and selection of candidates:

- Applicants will be considered without regard to race, religion, sex, age, and/or physical impairment.
- Preference is given to those without recent experience in the United States.
- Applicants who have previously received a grant under the Fulbright Program of more than two months are ineligible to apply for another grant within three years from the date of termination of the previous grant, unless an exception has been granted.
- Applicants should be representative and responsible citizens who can contribute to a full and fair picture of the culture of their own countries and thereby contribute to understanding between the people of the United States and their country. They should also demonstrate the cross-cultural sensitivity and flexibility needed to adjust successfully to life in the United States.

**Grants are not for the principal purpose of**

- attending conferences,
- completing doctoral dissertations,
- travel and consultation at multiple institutions or
- clinical medical research involving patient contact.\*

[\***Note to medical doctors:** The U.S. Department of State has designated the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) as the sole agency authorized to sponsor alien physicians for internship, residency and specialized clinical training in the United States. Fulbright grantees cannot

simultaneously be sponsored by ECFMG; therefore, proposals for medical research involving clinical training, patient care or patient contact cannot be approved under the Fulbright Program.]

#### **IV**

- Although most grants available to foreign scholars are for research, you should consult with the Fulbright organization representatives to determine the kinds of grants available for your country.
- Refer to “Additional Information for Applicants From Sub-Saharan Africa” for essential information on award categories and the review process, if you are from this world area.
- You must submit your application by the deadline set by the Fulbright organization in your home country.
- Initial screening and endorsement of applications are done by the Fulbright organization in your home country. Applications from African scholars also undergo an academic review conducted by CIES.
- The application is then forwarded to CIES and the U.S. Department of State by the Fulbright organization in your home country. Final selection of all grants is made by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.
- You will be notified by the Fulbright organization in your home country if you are selected, based on the timeline set by that organization. Before a grant can be confirmed, a medical evaluation report is required and will be reviewed by appropriate personnel.
- It is the policy of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board not to give to individual applicants or to others inquiring on their behalf the specific reasons for selection or non-selection of applicants for awards under the program, to the extent not required as a matter of law.
- For scholars from many world areas, CIES arranges or confirms affiliation with appropriate U.S. institutions. Scholars from some commission countries arrange their own affiliations. Consult with the Fulbright organization in your home country regarding affiliation requirements.
- You should not plan to arrive any earlier than late August of the year you are notified. You must complete projects on or before December 31 of the year following notification of your selection.

#### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR AFFILIATION WITH A U.S. HOST INSTITUTION**

One of the most important components of the Fulbright Scholar Program is a formal affiliation at a U.S. university or research institution. In many cases, applicants are in contact with colleagues at U.S. institutions and have made preliminary plans for their own placements by securing a letter of invitation from the prospective host institution. However, if you are unable to make these preliminary contacts, you are strongly encouraged to identify two or three institutions that have appropriate facilities for the kind of project you wish to undertake and faculty specialized in your research interests. Please indicate the rationale for your preferences.

When determining which institutions to include on your preferred list, do not limit yourself to only large research institutes and the most well-known U.S. universities. Consider listing other institutions such as community colleges, regional universities or Minority-Serving Institutions (which include Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions and Tribal Colleges and Universities). These schools are often engaged in many dynamic areas of teaching and research. Though many U.S. institutions may not have an international reputation, they often do have appropriate facilities for scholars to conduct research. Scholars placed in these smaller and less renowned institutions often are given greater attention than their colleagues who are affiliated with larger and more well-known universities.

If you have studied previously in the United States, you should avoid seeking affiliation at your U.S. alma mater. This is to ensure that you expand your contacts within the U.S. academic community.

The task of affiliation is substantially facilitated if you have a project that is clearly defined and well written. Prospective host institutions will also want to be assured that you can conduct research in English.

**Deadline to submit the application is November 1, 2009.**

For more information, contact Cultural Affairs Assistant, Nadia Ouhenia at: [ouhenianx@state.gov](mailto:ouhenianx@state.gov)